

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application.

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:
receiving a request to provide a requested service, wherein
the request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,
a module performing said receiving is configured to receive the request from a plurality of source types, and
the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node, ~~and an enterprise application web server executing on a third remote network node;~~
providing the request to a language parser configured to parse the first language;
obtaining results of parsing the request from the language parser;
selecting a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the requested service, wherein
each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding service,
at least two devices among the plurality of devices are configured to provide the requested service, and
said selecting the first device is performed in response to said obtaining the results of parsing the request; and
converting the request to a second request, wherein
the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second language,
the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response to receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising:
directing the second request to the first device.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein
the first language is a markup language;
the second language is a device-specific language of a plurality of device-specific languages, wherein
each of the plurality of devices communicates using one of the plurality of device-specific languages.
4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2 wherein the request formats comprise:
at least one instruction, and
data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.
5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4 further comprising:
specifying use of a specific feature of the first device, wherein
said specifying use of the specific feature comprises specifying an optional variable and providing a value for the optional variable, and
said converting the request to the second request comprises
including the optional variable in the at least one instruction of the second request, and
including the value for the optional variable in the data of the second request.

6. (Canceled)
7. (Currently amended) The method of ~~claim 6~~ **claim 1 further comprising:
sending a response to the request,** wherein
the response conforms to a response format defined in the first language.
8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 7 wherein the response format comprises:
at least one instruction; and
data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.
9. (Currently amended) A system comprising:
receiving means for receiving a request to provide a requested service, wherein
the request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,
the receiving means is configured to receive the request from a plurality of source
types, and
the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote
network node, **and** a control module executing on a second remote
network node, **and an enterprise application web server executing on a
third remote network node;**
parsing means for parsing the request formatted in the first language;
obtaining means for obtaining results of said parsing means;
selecting means for selecting a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the
requested service, wherein
each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding service,
**at least two devices among the plurality of devices are configured to provide
the requested service,** and

the selecting means performs said selecting the first device in response to said
obtaining means obtaining the results of parsing the request; and
converting means for converting the request to a second request, wherein
the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second language,
the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response to
receiving the second request, and
at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a
format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second
language.

10. (Previously presented) The system of claim 9 further comprising:
directing means for directing the second request to the first device.
11. (Previously presented) The system of claim 10 wherein the request formats comprise:
at least one instruction, and
data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.
12. (Previously presented) The system of claim 11 further comprising:
first including means for including an optional variable in the at least one instruction of
the second request; and
second including means for including a value of the optional variable in the data of the
second request, wherein
the optional variable and the value specify use of a specific feature of the first
device.
13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently amended) The system of ~~claim 13~~ claim 9 further comprising:
sending means for sending a response to the request, wherein
the response conforms to a response format defined in the first language.
15. (Previously presented) The system of claim 14 wherein the response format comprises:
at least one instruction; and
data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.
16. (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium comprising:
receiving instructions to receive a request to provide a requested service, wherein
the request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,
the receiving instructions are further configured to receive the request from a
plurality of source types, and
the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote
network node, and a control module executing on a second remote
network node, ~~and an enterprise application web server executing on a
third remote network node;~~
providing instructions to provide the request to a language parser configured to parse the
first language;
obtaining instructions for obtaining results of parsing the request from the language
parser;
selecting instructions to select a first device of a plurality of devices to provide the
requested service, wherein
each of the plurality of devices is configured to provide a corresponding service,
at least two devices among the plurality of devices are configured to provide
the requested service, and

the selecting instructions are responsive to the obtaining the results of parsing the request; and

converting instructions to convert the request to a second request in a request format defined in a second language, wherein

the second request conforms to a second language, and

the first device is configured to provide the requested service in response to receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

17. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 16 further comprising: directing instructions to direct the second request to the first device.

18. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 17, wherein the request formats comprise:

at least one instruction, and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

19. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 18 further comprising: first including instructions to include an optional variable in the at least one instruction of the second request; and second including instructions to include a value of the optional variable in the data of the second request, wherein the optional variable and the value specify use of a specific feature of the first device.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of ~~claim 20~~ claim 16 further comprising:

sending instructions for sending a response to the request, wherein

the response conforms to a response format defined in the first language.

22. (Previously presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 21 wherein the response format comprises:

at least one instruction; and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

23. (Currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a processor configured to execute instructions;

a plurality of devices coupled to the computer system, wherein

each device is configured to perform a corresponding service; and

a memory, coupled to the processor, and configured to store the instructions, wherein

the instructions comprise

receiving instructions to receive a request to provide a service, wherein

the request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,

the receiving instructions are further configured to receive the request from a plurality of source types,

the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, and a control module executing on a second remote network node, ~~and an enterprise application web server executing on a third remote network node~~, and

at least [[one]] two devices of the plurality of devices provide[s]
the service;

providing instructions to provide the request to a language parser
configured to parse the first language;

obtaining instructions to obtain results of parsing the request from the
language parser;

identifying instructions to identify a first device of the at least [[one]] two
devices to provide the service, wherein

the identifying instructions are responsive to the obtaining the
results of parsing the request; and

converting instructions to convert the request to a second request in a
second language, wherein

the second request conforms to a request format defined in a
second language, and

the first device is configured to provide the service in response to
receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive
requests only in a format that is incompatible with the
request format defined in the second language.

24. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 23 wherein the instructions further
comprise:

directing instructions to direct the second request to the first device.

25. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the request format
comprises

at least one instruction, and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

26. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 25 wherein the instructions further comprise:

first including instructions to include an optional variable in the at least one instruction of the second request; and

second including instructions to include a value of the optional variable in the data of the second request, wherein

the optional variable and the value specify use of a specific feature of the first device.

27. (Original) The computer system of claim 24 wherein the instructions further comprise: sending instructions for sending a response to the request.

28. (Original) The computer system of claim 27 wherein the response conforms to a response format defined in the first language.

29. (Previously presented) The computer system of claim 28 wherein the response format comprises:

at least one instruction; and

data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.

30. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a receiving module configured to receive a request to provide a service, wherein

the request conforms to a request format defined in a first language,

the receiving module is further configured to receive the request from a plurality of source types,

the plurality of source types comprises an applet executing on a first remote network node, **and** a control module executing on a second remote network node, **and an enterprise application web server executing on a third remote network node,**

at least **[[one]] two** devices of a plurality of devices **[[is]] are** configured to provide the service, and

the plurality of devices is coupled to the system;

a language parsing module configured to parse the first language, wherein

the request is provided to the language parsing module;

an identifying module configured to identify a first device of the at least **[[one]] two** devices to provide the service, wherein

the identifying module is responsive to the language parsing module parsing the request; and

a converting module configured to convert the request to a second request in a second language, wherein

the second request conforms to a request format defined in a second language, and

the first device is configured to provide the service in response to receiving the second request, and

at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the second language.

31. (Previously presented) The system of claim 30 further comprising:
a directing module to direct the second request to the first device.
32. (Previously presented) The system of claim 31 wherein
the request formats comprise:
at least one instruction; and
data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.
33. (Previously presented) The system of claim 32 further comprising:
a first including module to include an optional variable in the at least one instruction of
the second request; and
a second including module to include a value of the optional variable in the data of the
second request, wherein
the optional variable and the value specify use of a specific feature of the first
device.
34. (Canceled)
35. (Currently amended) The system of ~~claim 34~~ **claim 30 further comprising:
a sending module for sending a response to the request,** wherein
the response conforms to a response format defined in the first language.
36. (Previously presented) The system of claim 35 wherein
the response format comprises:
at least one instruction; and
data to be used when performing the at least one instruction.
- 37-39. (Canceled)

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of source types comprises a magnetic card reader.
41. **(Currently amended)** The method of claim 1 further comprising:
- receiving a third request to provide a second requested service, wherein
- the third request conforms to the request format defined in the first language,
- said receiving the third request is performed by the module in the computer system,
- providing the third request to the language parser;
- obtaining results of parsing the third request from the language parser;
- selecting a second device of the plurality of devices to provide the second requested service, wherein
- said selecting the second device is performed in response to said obtaining the results of parsing the third request; and
- converting the third request to a fourth request, wherein
- the fourth request conforms to a request format defined in a **fourth third** language,
- the second device is configured to provide the second requested service in response to receiving the fourth request, and
- at least one of the plurality of devices is configured to receive requests only in a format that is incompatible with the request format defined in the **fourth third** language.

42. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two devices configured to provide the requested service comprise:

the first device, wherein

the first device comprises a first application program interface (API) configured to receive instructions in a first device-specific native language; and

a second device, wherein

the second device comprises a second API configured to receive instructions in a second device-specific native language, and

the second device-specific native language is distinct from the first device-specific native language.

43. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the at least two devices configured to provide the requested service comprise:

the first device, wherein

the first device is produced by a first vendor;

a second device, wherein

the second device is produced by a second vendor;

the second vendor is distinct from the first vendor.

44. (New) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

adding a new device to the plurality of devices; and

coupling the new device to the language parser, wherein

the new device is configured to provide the requested service.

45. (New) The method of claim 43, wherein the first device is the new device.